

Media Coverage 6-12

WTHR

Misconceptions about flood insurance

Southern Indiana - All week we've heard the concerns of flood victims: They don't live in a flood plain so they couldn't buy flood insurance. In fact, that is not accurate, and the misconception adds misery to the losses of homeowners.

That's wrong. They are eligible for it. They can buy it," said John Kissling, chief deputy commissioner, Indiana Department of Insurance.

Kissling has seen the families who have no way to pay for everything they've lost.

"They could have purchased the coverage and had most of their losses covered," he said.

The tragic misconceptions over flood insurance extend to government, including the mayor of Columbus.

"I talked to several families who talked or applied for flood insurance to be told they didn't need it or it wasn't available," said Gov. Mitch Daniels.

The state is trying to get the word out, end the misconceptions and encourage more people to purchase flood insurance. It's requiring insurance agents to receive additional training on flood insurance.

Residents in 33 communities can't buy national flood insurance, because they haven't met federal requirements.

Bush approves federal storm aid for eight counties

Indianapolis - President Bush on Wednesday approved individual assistance programs for eight Indiana counties hit by flooding or tornadoes in the past two weeks, Gov. Mitch Daniels said.

The action makes federal aid available for affected homeowners, renters and businesses in Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Damage assessments for other counties are ongoing and will be submitted to the government as they are completed, officials said.

"I hope it is indicative of how fast the rest of this process can move," Daniels said in a statement. "We've had excellent cooperation with FEMA so far."

The state already had received approval for direct federal assistance, which includes such things as food, water and other emergency protective measures, in 29 counties.

Individual assistance includes such steps as grants of up to \$28,000 per household for rent, repairs, replacement of homes and personal goods. Some individual victims and businesses might also be eligible for disaster loans.

Joe Wainscott, director of the state Department of Emergency Management, said at least 800 homes across seven counties were destroyed or had major damage.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency also has decided to consider as one weather event severe storms and tornadoes on May 30 along with flooding that began June 7, the statement from Daniels' office said.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion or Vigo counties can apply for assistance by registering [online](#) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The telephone numbers will operate daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time.

FEMA surveys Columbus damage

Columbus - Help is now arriving in the flood ravaged areas of Indiana.

FEMA representatives are in Columbus to assess the damage, and they have a lot of ground to cover. At least 1,500 homes were either heavily damaged or destroyed and that number doesn't include all the businesses that were hit especially hard - like Furniture Plus on U.S. 31.

Homeland Security update - Wednesday

New Items in BOLD

CURRENT SITUATION

- **Long term logistics needs are being identified and put into place. Debris is starting to become an issue in the impacted areas.**
- **Levee in Daviess County has breached. Most residents around the levee doing self-evacuation around Maysville levee with six DNR boats and 10 officers in the area. Residents being evacuated to the town of Washington. Well field is completely out of service due to flooding of pump controls.**
- **White River: Petersburg (rising but only roads and agriculture impacted); Centerton, Eagle Valley, Spencer, Elliston (steady or falling);**
- **The East Fork of the White: Bedford, Williams, Shoals (Rising within 3 ft from crests); Riverdale, Columbus, Seymour (Falling)**
- **At Edwardsport, the White has crested and is steady. Downstream, river levels at Petersburg are rising. Sandbag delivery in process for Edwardsport (Knox)**

- The Wabash: Mt. Carmel, (crest of white river and Wabash will arrive at this location around Friday afternoon); Hazelton (White River will crest near record stage at 28.7ft on Friday afternoon); New Harmony (Rising but 5-7ft from crests); Riverton, Vincennes, (Rising within inches of crest), Hutsonville (steady); Montexuma, Clinton, Terre Haut (Falling).
- The Muscatatuck River: **steady**.
- Jasonville (Greene) request for 30,000 sandbags backed off to 1,000 now recommitted to 30,000.

FLOOD CONTROL

- **JOHNSON COUNTY:**
 - Prince's Lakes (3 loads of sand to be delivered); East Lake, concern; North Lake, concern; Earlham Lake, failed (located above Lamb Lake); Lamb Lake, OK; Hood Lake, concern; Upper Peoga Lake, concern (located above Lower Peoga Lake); Lower Peoga Lake, OK
- **MORGAN COUNTY:**
 - Camp Victor, failed (located above Bailey Lake); Bailey Lake concern; Upper Wildwood, concern (located above Lower Wildwood); Lower Wildwood, concern; Upper Spring, OK; Lower Spring, concern; Fox Run, concern;
- **PARK COUNTY**
 - Racoon Lake / Cecil Hardin Lake - USACE will not release water and allow water to back up into the park to prevent flooding downriver.
- **BROWN COUNTY:**
 - Yellowood Lake, damage to spillway foundation but not a threat (the spillway already was being prepared)
- **OWEN COUNTY:**
 - Greybrook, failed; Amazon, concern; Hollybrook, concern
- **BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY:**
 - Schaefer Lake, concern (overtopped and damaged; emergency spillway completely

- Sandbagging efforts continue in: Daviess, Dubois, Green, Johnson, Knox (Duke Energy Plant), Morgan, Putnam, Shelby (Flat Rock Post Office), and Vigo (**awaiting Lake County sand bag machine**) counties.
- **Bennington Levee - Overtopped, flooding in process, evacuations underway**

STATE AGENCIES ACTIVE IN RESPONSE OPERATIONS

- Department of Natural Resources:
 - **DNR Division of Law Enforcement has 15 conservation officers staged in the Washington area with 5 johnboats and 3 airboats and are evacuating residents near Washington. They are presently monitoring a 150-foot levee breach on the White River's west fork at Daviess County Road 700 N near Washington. Two officers are staged downstream near Hazelton.**
 - **Flood victims got a measure of relief Wednesday when DNR Director Robert E. Carter Jr. announced an emergency rule that temporarily suspends permit requirements for certain reconstruction activities and debris removal in flooded areas. The emergency rule is applicable in 29 counties and only in the following instances:**
 - **Reconstruction of bridge and culvert crossings damaged by floodwaters;**
 - **Removal of logjams and debris from the channel of a waterway;**
 - **Stabilization and repair of stream banks eroded by floodwaters.**

Under normal conditions, such work requires a permit under Indiana Code 14-28-1, but that requirement is waved until Oct. 1 for the following counties: Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Greene, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Owen, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Union, Vermillion, Vigo and Wayne.

- Indiana State Police:
 - **Morgan County**
 - **Forty (40) DOC inmates from Pendleton and Indiana Youth Center are assisting with clean up in Martinsville.**
 - **SR 142 from Wilbur to SR 39 is now open**
 - **Vermillion County**
 - **SR 163 is open**
 - **Greene County**
 - **SR 59 is open**
 - **SR 67 from Spencer to Sanborn is now open**
 - **SR 231 from Bloomfield to Daviess County is now open**
 - **Bartholomew County**
 - **SR 9 - 3 ½ miles north of intersection of SR 9 and SR 46 now open**

- Jackson County
 - SR 258 from Cortland to Seymour now open
- Morgan County
 - SR 37 @ Egbert Road southbound (1 lane) is now open
- Daviees County
 - Plainville area levee appears to still be giving way. 2 troopers in area assisting with evacuation. Mostly farmland, very few homes.
- Indiana Department of Transportation

For road conditions go to EMERGENCY.IN.gov

- State Department of Health
- ○ The State Department of Health FAQs have been updated on the state's Storm Damage Information Web site at: <http://www.in.gov/gov/3725.htm>. Find tips for safely cleaning up after a flood.
- ○ The State Department of Health says people in flooded areas should thoroughly wash any cuts, scrapes, scratches, or other skin injuries with soap and water and apply an antiseptic and bandages to make sure they do not become infected. Injuries exposed to floodwater and debris should be closely watched for signs of infection (redness, swelling, pain, drainage). See your health care provider right away if those symptoms develop.
- ○ Hoosiers should wear gloves, if possible, when cleaning items exposed to floodwater to prevent exposure to residual water and injury.
- ○ State health officials recommend tetanus shots for Hoosiers in flooded areas who have not received one within the past 10 years, especially if they have sustained any skin injuries that were exposed to floodwater. Tetanus shots are available from your doctor or local health department.
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Spill incidents: On-scene coordinators are discussing priorities before being deployed in the field today. Emergency response personnel are working to investigate and, as necessary, help contain and stabilize reported spills and releases in several communities, including Martinsville, Franklin, Nashville, Poland, Terre Haute, Nashville, and Daviess County.

- ○ **Wastewater Treatment Plants: Switz City, West Terre Haute, Worthington, Lyons** wastewater treatment plants have outages or are still under water. The status of some

facilities is unknown due to impassible roads. IDEM will respond when facilities request assistance.

- o **Debris management:** IDEM fact sheets on emergency burning and emergency debris management are available at www.in.gov/idem/4522.htm . An inspector will meet with City of Franklin personnel to discuss waste disposal plans. Waste disposal inspectors are standing by to work with county, city and local officials as flood waters recede.
- o **Agriculture Facilities:** The National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced that recovery funding may be available. Information is available at <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=6F4698B6-E16B-E74C-0F645B74C59730FF>
- o **Livestock operations:** IDEM, with the assistance of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, is in the process of assessing conditions at manure lagoons around the state.
- Agriculture - IBOAH and ISDA
 - o If farmers have livestock losses (deaths), they should go to the Indiana Board of Animal Health website at www.in.gov/boah or call 317-227-0300.
 - o If farmers have manure, pesticides or other farm chemicals that have spilled due to flooding, they should contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Spill Hotline at 317-233-7745 or 1-888-233-7745.
- Indiana National Guard
 - o **The Indiana National Guard has a total of 29 water trailers deployed to the following communities: Jasper (1), Martinsville (2), Linton (5), Vincennes (4), Washington (3), Evansville (3), Hymera (1), St. Bernice (1), Sweetwater (1), Hope (4), Nineveh (2), Indian Creek (2)**
 - o **1,301 soldiers sandbagging in 7 locations around southern Indiana (moving personnel to Hazleton and Vincennes)**

LOCAL DISASTER DECLARATION

Bartholomew, Boone, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Greene, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Owen, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Union, Vermillion, Vigo, and Wayne.

HEALTH, SAFETY & SECURITY

- 3 fatalities: Morgan, and Bartholomew counties

SHELTER OPERATIONS

Johnson County: Community Church of Greenwood, 1477 W. Main St., Greenwood

Morgan County: Martinsville High School, 1360 E. Gray St., Martinsville, IN

Brown County: Brown County YMCA, 105 Willow Street, Nashville, IN

Bartholomew County: Northside Middle School, 1400 27th St., Columbus, IN

Bartholomew County: Columbus North High School, 1400 25th St., Columbus, IN

Owen County: Spencer Elementary, 151 E Hillside Ave, Spencer, IN

Vigo County: North High School, 3434 Maple Ave, Terre Haute, IN

Jackson County: Medora Conservation Club, Medora, IN

Knox County: North Knox High School, 10890 N. State Road 159, Bicknell, IN

Total Shelter Population: 1,325 (Up from 273 on last report)

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Status of Utilities:

- *Gas*
- *Boil Orders*
- o **Washington (Daviess County) has issued a "Conservation Order" and is in the evaluation process of whether a "Boil Water Order" or a "Do Not Consume Order" should be issued.**
- o Service was disrupted for nearly 1500 IW-Morgan customers over the weekend because of the record flooding.
- o Service has been restored to tall customers and all water from IW is safe for consumption
- o The remaining 35 customers on Huggins Hollow Road may now consume water without boiling. Test results were negative for any type of contamination
- o Final water quality test results received this morning show no contamination in the Indianapolis Water-Morgan system following main breaks over the weekend due to flooding.

- o Boil order in Columbus expected to be lifted this evening.
- *Water System Failures*
- o **Worthington (Greene County) waste water treatment plant operator is unable to get to facility. Several lift stations are underwater and not working.**
- o Emergency water for the following
 - Rural Vigo County -25,000 people for one week. Total 175,000 gal. of water
 - Gosport (Owen County) -700 people for two days. Total 1400 gal. of water
 - Freedom (Owen County) -700 people for two days. Total 1400 gal. of water.
 - Jasonville/Colemont (Greene County) - 3200 people for two weeks. Total 44,800 gal. of water
 - Hymera (Sullivan County) - 1200 people for two weeks. Total 16,800 gal. of water.
- *Sewer*
- o Greene County - Switz City shut down doe to flooding
- *Power*
- o Duke Energy Generating Plant in Edwardsport shut down due to flooding. Sandbagging underway by IN National Guard.
- o IPL has reports that **4000** customers are still without power

SUMMARY OF STATE AGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONS

Total Number of State Personnel Deployed

Indiana Public Safety Commission - 1

Indiana Department of Environmental Management - **5**

Indiana Department of Transportation - 110

Indiana Department of Administration - **1**

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission - 1

Indiana State Police - **75**

Department of Natural Resources - 40

Indiana National Guard - **1301+**

- Aviation Support throughout the state - Five UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, one OH-58 helicopter

Board of Animal Health - 2

Indiana State Department of Health - 10

Indiana Department of Homeland Security - **40**

Indiana Department of Corrections - 62

Bush calls Gov. Daniels

Columbus - Governor Mitch Daniels took a tour of Indiana's worst flood damage Wednesday to determine what it will take to put Hoosiers back on solid ground. He stopped in several towns where residents are trying to recover from recent storms.

Governor Daniels' tour of storm ravaged south central Indiana started in Moscow, giving him a chance to see and even touch the devastation.

"This is probably very antique stuff, I suppose. She was 65 years old. Was she living alone?" asked Gov. Daniels.

He marveled that the community's lone injured resident was able to survive at all.

"As far as tornado sirens, we have applied for 14 in the grant and Moscow was one of them that was going to get that," said Gov. Daniels.

The governor's entourage departed and while every stop on his agenda Wednesday will be memorable, there was a real moment when he stopped at Cook Farm.

"One boot probably won't do much good. That's weird. I don't know how many shoes. One shoe. One shoe," said Daniels, looking at Susan Cook's collection of unpaired shoes.

Then he discovered what was in the shoe.

"Oh, well, if you were looking for...oh my!" he said, pulling out a brush.

"My son's baby brush!" Cook exclaimed. "See, he left that shoe here for a reason and that was a gift from his uncle, for my son."

"Well, you are one dollar richer than you would have been if I had not come by. Congratulations," said Gov. Daniels, who also found a dollar coin in the shoe.

It was a small discovery in the midst of a big disaster. Susan Cook doesn't plan to rebuild, so anything she can find to take with her is a good thing. After that, the governor lifted off bound for the town of Hope. He took an interesting phone call.

"On the main square the phone rang and it was the president of the U.S. calling from Italy," said Daniels.

The president called the governor to inquire about injuries and damage assessments. In Parkside Apartments in Franklin work is still going on after flood waters ravaged the apartment complex.

The governor made stops in Moscow, Hope, Spencer and Franklin Wednesday morning. The state's fire marshal accompanied him.

WISHTV

President Bush signs disaster declaration for first eight Indiana counties

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - Governor Mitch Daniels received word Wednesday night that President George W. Bush has approved the first eight counties for federal assistance for homeowners, renters and businesses in central and south central Indiana damaged by severe weather that began May 30.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Damage assessments for other counties are continuing and are being submitted to the federal government as they are completed.

"Now, that's fast action. I hope it is indicative of how fast the rest of this process can move," said Daniels. "We've had excellent cooperation with FEMA so far."

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

In addition to these first approvals, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has decided to consider the weather events that began with tornadoes and severe storms on May 30 and continuing through heavy rains and flooding on June 7 as one weather event. That means more Hoosiers are likely to receive help.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in these counties can begin applying for assistance now by registering online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA or 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. Please note that the toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) seven days a week.

On Thursday, the state will provide information about the establishment of on-site locations for FEMA application assistance and help with state services and when those sites are projected to open.

[Daniels gets up close look at storm ravaged communities](#)

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - Governor Mitch Daniels toured hard hit areas of Indiana again on Wednesday.

While the damage is devastating, what the governor notices most now, is the spirit of Hoosiers determined to get their lives back on track.

Seeing storm ravaged parts of Indiana first hand is why the governor is touring the state.

For victims, seeing the governor is a visible sign that they have not been forgotten.

"I don't have adjectives quite big enough for the power of nature when it sets its mind to something like this," said Gov. Daniels.

A tornado tore through Moscow, Indiana, a small town in Rush County.

The governor stopped at the spot where Diane Hester's home once stood. The storm threw her into a tree branch that punctured her chest.

"Later we discovered if not for that, she would have been thrown into the river and almost certainly drowned," said Gov. Daniels.

The governor said Hester is still recovering from her injuries.

Daniels said he's seen bad tornados in Indiana and bad flooding before, but never both in one week.

"It's tested our people; it's tested our responders and our systems. They have all performed fabulously," said Gov. Daniels.

For those trying to recover, seeing the governor walk among the ruins gives them hope.

"First step, make sure people are safe. Second step, make sure they are well cared for and then we'll get to the care and relief as fast as we can," said Gov. Daniels.

The cleanup in Moscow and Franklin is well underway.

But because of the widespread scope of the damage getting everything fixed will be a long slow process.

For now, the governor's words are comforting.

Soon, storm victims will want to see something more tangible and in an election year, it may have an impact into November.

Future uncertain for flood victims in need of federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - It's still uncertain how much federal aid will be coming to people who've lost their homes and businesses because of the flood.

"I think if you or I had lost our home, I think we would be in shock, too," said Leo Skinner with FEMA.

Skinner said FEMA still has to assess the extent of the damage in the 29 counties President Bush has declared disaster areas.

Governor Daniels will take that information and apply to the federal government for aid for individuals.

"If it's granted, it would be individual assistance. And that means either grants or loans for homeowners, renters, and possibly loans for small businesses as well," said Skinner.

Skinner said the maximum grant would be \$28,800. He said the maximum low-interest loan would be \$200,000 for rebuilding or repair and \$40,000 to replace contents.

For more information on how the FEMA process works click on the video link at the top left corner of the page.

Morgan Co. leaders meeting to decide how to help flood victims

MORGAN COUNTY, Ind. (WISH) - The cost from flood damage across Indiana continues to rise. Among the worst hit places is Morgan County.

The executive director of SCCAPI Todd Lare said, "The damage assessment is being done right now and there is wide scale damage to homes and a lot of the residents here don't have flood insurance. A lot will not be covered and there will be limited FEMA benefits. Now we're planning for the short-term needs in terms of necessity and to look ahead at the long-term needs of this community."

Lare said, "They're going to be a lot of volunteer opportunities coordinated through the emergency medical office, main office here. We also will be taking donations. There are several funds that have been set up, Red Cross and other local funds. We're going to need toiletries and a lot of basic essentials and so there are a lot of opportunities. If you would call locally here the emergency management office, they're going to have a lot of resources and they'll put you in touch of what fits your skill level and your ability to contribute."

If you would like to donate to the Morgan County Emergency Management Agency please call (765) 342-8467. Make sure that you put on your checks or your money order, "flood victim."

Boil Notices & Emergency Information

Boil Notices & Emergency Information

Updated: June 11, 2008 12:50 PM EDT

Current Situation:

- Evacuation ordered in Daviess County north of Maysville due to a levee overtopping. Residents being evacuated to Lena Dunn School in Washington.
- The East Fork of the White River has dropped below Flood Stage at Columbus after setting a new record flood level on June 8th.
- The East Fork of the White at Seymour has crested and is dropping. The river is now cresting at Bedford.
- At Edwardsport, the White has crested and is steady. Downstream, river levels at Petersburg are rising.
- The Wabash has crested just above Major Flood Stage at Riverton in Sullivan County and just below Major Flood Stage at Vincennes. Crest continuing south toward East Mount Carmel and the Gibson Power Plant.
- The Muscatatuck River is now dropping
- Duke Energy Plant in Edwardsport shut down due to flooding. National Guard deployed to provide sandbagging assistance.
- Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel and aircraft have completed assigned missions and are standing down from flood response operations.

Flood Control:

- Monroe Reservoir holding steady
- Cecil M. Harden Reservoir holding steady
- Elnora - Levee overtopped water now receding
- Plainville - Levee #8 overtopped still holding
- Sandbagging efforts continue in: Daviess, Dubois, Green, Johnson, Knox (Duke Energy Plant), Morgan, Putnam, Shelby (Flat Rock Post Office), and Vigo counties.

Disaster Declarations:

Bartholomew County, Boone County, Brown County, Clay County, Daviess County, Dearborn County, Decatur County, Franklin County, Green County, Henry County, Jackson County, Jefferson County, Jennings County, Johnson County, Lawrence County, Madison County, Monroe County, Morgan County, Ohio County, Owen County, Randolph County, Ripley County, Rush County, Shelby County, Sullivan County, Union County, Vermillion County, Vigo County & Wayne County

Water Notices:

- **State Department of Health - State health officials are recommending that people in flooded areas with septic systems or wells that are under floodwaters should use bottled water for drinking, brushing teeth, cooking, or bathing.**
- Health officials recommend boiling water for 5 minutes before drinking it. Crews are working to repair the water main breaks, but do not know how long that will take.

Boil Orders:

- City of Martinsville Water Utility - all customers
- Shelby and Johnson County residents that are serviced by IN American Water do not need to boil water
- Town of Jasonville

Water System Failures:

- Rural Vigo County
- Gosport (Owen)
- Freedom (Owen)
- Jasonville/Colemont (Green)
- Hymera (Sullivan)

Sewer:

- Wastewater treatment plant at Switz City (Greene County) shut down due to flooding.

Power Outages:

- Duke Energy Generating Plant in Edwardsport shut down due to flooding. Sandbagging underway by IN National Guard.
- IPL has reports that 3,950 customers are still without power

Agriculture:

- In an effort to provide assistance for Hoosier farmers, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture is working with USDA officials to get additional information to farmers within the next 24 hours. If farmers have livestock losses (deaths), they should go to the Indiana Board of Animal Health website at www.in.gov/boah or call 317-227-0300 for proper methods to dispose of dead livestock.

- If farmers have manure, pesticides or other farm chemicals that have spilled due to flooding, they should contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Spill Hotline at 317-233-7745 or 1-888-233-7745.

WRTV

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Damage assessments for other counties are ongoing and will be submitted to the government as they are completed, officials said.

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Louisville TV

WAVE

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WDRB

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[Governor expects Indiana to receive federal storm aid](#)

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Governor Mitch Daniels expects federal approval soon for individual help in central and southern Indiana counties hit by the recent floods and tornadoes.

The state already has received approval in 29 counties for direct federal assistance, which includes food, water and other emergency measures. The individual assistance includes grants of up to \$28,000 per household for rent, repairs, replacement of homes and personal goods. Some individual victims and businesses might also be eligible for disaster loans.

State officials say damage assessments for individual assistance have been completed in Marion, Hancock, Bartholomew, Johnson, Monroe, Morgan, Rush, Vermillion and Vigo counties and were ongoing in several other counties.

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WHAS

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WIBC

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Individual assistance includes such steps as grants of up to \$28,000 per household for rent, repairs, replacement of homes and personal goods. Some individual victims and businesses might also be eligible for disaster loans.

Joe Wainscott, director of the state Department of Emergency Management, said at least 800 homes across seven counties were destroyed or had major damage.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency also has decided to consider as one weather event severe storms and tornadoes on May 30 along with flooding that began June 7, the statement from Daniels' office said.

[Damage Assessments Complete in 17 of 44 Counties](#)

Governor Mitch Daniels says damage assessments are complete in 17 of the 44 declared counties and he is now asking for individual assistance from the federal government.

Flooding in southern Indiana is still a danger, so counties are being assessed in phases as the flood water recedes. The governor expects quick approval, speeding up the process for the remaining counties.

Daniels says once the federal government approves his request for individual assistance, flood victims can begin filing applications. The governor will co-locate federal agencies in existing state offices in the approved counties to make it convenient for people to get help. Daniels declined to name the locations until the state gets federal approval.

The governor says residents in the flooded areas have asked about the "tabulators" they've heard about. Daniels says they've come and gone because once they find a county has exceeded the damage level to qualify for federal help, they stop the assessment and move on to the next county.

A Purdue University climatologist says a La Nina weather pattern will continue to trigger severe weather over Indiana through the end of July. Governor Daniels says he'd seen a recent National Weather Service forecast contradicting that information. Daniels said this is the only instance where he hopes the weather service is "smarter than Purdue".

Indianapolis Star

[Military plane to spot state's flood damage](#)

high-tech aircraft used to photograph illegal drug operations will cruise across [Indiana](#) skies today to survey the damage caused by the recent floods.

The RC-26 Counterdrug Aircraft from the [West Virginia](#) Air National Guard will fly over the flooded communities to help assess the damaged areas, find gaps in security and plan for clean up and reconstruction, said Lt. Col. Deedra E. Thombleson, a spokeswoman for Joint Force Headquarters -- Indiana.

[President Bush approves aid for 8 counties](#)

Hoosiers will be able to begin seeking government assistance to rebuild their lives even before the last of this week's floodwaters have dried up.

Gov. Mitch Daniels' office said late Wednesday that it learned President Bush had approved the first eight counties, including Marion, for federal assistance for damage from severe weather that began May 30.

"Now, that's fast action. I hope it is indicative of how fast the rest of this process can move," Daniels said in a statement.

In addition to Marion, counties covered by the president's approval Wednesday are Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo.

Homeowners, renters and businesses in those counties will be eligible for federal assistance that can include grants for temporary housing and home repair, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and programs to help people and business owners deal with the effects of the storms.

The governor's statement said assessments of damage in other counties are continuing and will be submitted to the federal government.

In addition to approving the eight counties for aid, Daniels' office said the Federal Emergency Management Agency had decided to consider as one continuous weather event all of the severe weather that began May 30 with tornadoes and storms and continued through Saturday with heavy rain and flooding.

That consolidation, the governor's office said, means more Hoosiers are likely to get federal help.

Wednesday, the state still was watching rivers rise in southwestern Indiana -- though the water level

finally was falling in beleaguered Daviess County -- and encouraged more evacuations as levees and dams failed in some rural areas.

But in many counties, attention was turning to the cleanup, and for many homeowners, businesses and farmers, that meant getting federal disaster assistance.

Daniels said that to speed the process, the state and federal governments will "co-locate" in existing state offices in each county hit by the floodwaters. In addition, about 15 regional offices will be set up by FEMA in state offices.

"Our goal is accessibility and user-friendliness -- simplicity," Daniels said. "We've got folks who have suffered really serious hardship here, and they're shook up, as anyone would be."

The governor, who once again toured flood-stricken areas Wednesday, was in Bartholomew County when Bush phoned him from Italy.

"I told him, 'You picked a fitting place to reach me,' " Daniels said while viewing a flood-damaged apartment complex south of downtown Franklin in Johnson County. " 'I'm speaking from the town square of Hope. And we have hope.' "

The president wanted to know how flood victims were coping and "to ascertain if federal authorities have been as cooperative as can be," Daniels said. "At this point, they have."

Daniels and Joseph Wainscott Jr., Indiana's director of Homeland Security, said Indiana easily cleared the first federal threshold for getting help: at least 250 homes statewide destroyed or with major damage.

In addition to the counties covered by Bush's action Wednesday, another eight counties are close to completing preliminary damage assessments needed to obtain assistance, with more in the queue.

The state did not release those preliminary damage assessments, saying the work is not complete. But Wainscott said the preliminary assessments in Bartholomew, Johnson, Monroe, Morgan, Rush, Vermillion and Vigo counties showed about 800 homes destroyed or with major damage, and about 1,400 more homes with other damage.

But that, the state cautioned, is an incomplete picture. The federal threshold for assistance sets a minimum amount of damage, and once that hurdle is met, officials stop counting and move on to the next county.

The goal, Wainscott and others said, is to get counties declared disaster areas as quickly as possible. Only after the necessary federal approval is given and people begin applying for help will the full scope of the damage be known.

Tuesday, a Ball State University study estimated the damage at \$126 million. After making his third trip flying over and into the areas hit by tornadoes or floods, Daniels said Wednesday that from what he's now seen, that estimate "is probably going to be on the low side."

In Johnson County alone, Forrest "Tug" Sutton, the county's emergency management director, estimated flood damage could reach \$200 million. Across the county, 27 roads are closed or affected; 36 culverts and 15 bridges are gone.

"It's going to be pretty massive," Sutton said.

He and others in Johnson County were eager for the federal government to declare the county a disaster area so people can begin getting help.

"We're trying to be patient. We know it's difficult for all the victims out there," Sutton said earlier Wednesday.

[Daniels to tour damaged farms](#)

Gov. Mitch Daniels will spend this morning [meeting](#) with farmers and agriculture officials in Columbus to assess agricultural damage and will also visit farms in Morgan and Daviess counties.

Indiana Director of Agriculture Andy Miller will [travel](#) with Daniels during his tour, which will include a stop in Elnora around lunchtime to inspect the levee and visit with Elnora residents.

Evansville Courier & Press

[State on board to help](#)

INDIANAPOLIS — State government swung into action as a record-shattering flood poured into Southwestern Indiana this week.

The most visible examples are 1,300 Indiana National Guard soldiers and airmen helping sandbag river communities such as Elnora and Hazleton.

At least 11 other state government agencies, or nearly 400 people in addition to the Guard, are directly involved in flood rescue, relief and protection.

Those include Department of Natural Resources conservation officers in boats who help evacuations, and Department of Correction prisoners who lay sandbags from the Department of Transportation stockpile. Other agencies are posting advice to flood victims on how to obtain relief, and that information is all collected on a state Web site, www.in.gov/gov/3725.htm.

Directly supervising the relief effort is Gov. Mitch Daniels, who on Monday canceled a long-planned

economic development trip to Japan so he could remain in Indiana.

While inspecting storm damage Wednesday in Hope, Daniels said he got a phone call from President Bush, who is in Italy for a diplomatic conference.

Bush called "simply to inquire about how Hoosiers were getting through this, and to ask me — as I have asked local officials — was his level of government doing all it can to support us here and to cooperate with us? I told him, 'So far, so good,'" Daniels said.

The state is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to open FEMA offices in each of the affected Indiana counties — and to do so in locations that state government already operates in, Daniels said. State assistance will be located there, too, so flood victims can get their questions answered and relief applications filed at one place, he said. Locations have not been announced.

Late Wednesday, the governor's office learned that Bush had approved federal assistance for the first eight storm-damaged counties in central Indiana.

As the White River rose to higher levels from last week's flash floods, Daviess County remained an epicenter of concern. A voluntary evacuation took place in Maysville when water overtopped the Bennington Levee. State Homeland Security Director Joe Wainscott said it was precautionary.

Evacuation of a few rural homes also was recommended near Plainville. Meanwhile, the levee in Elnora appeared to be holding after the National Guard sandbagged it Monday.

National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Martin Umbarger, said there was "nothing more satisfying" to Guard members than helping their fellow Hoosiers by protecting towns from flooding or assisting in evacuations.

"You couldn't ask for a better attitude," the general said of his troops.

Hazleton Fire Chief Mike Ellis noted that several of the Guard members shoring up the levee Wednesday were the same soldiers who sandbagged there during the January 2005 flood.

"I could not ask for more from the state. They have been very receptive to our needs," Ellis said.

Once the flood recedes, the Indiana Department of Transportation will inspect state roads and bridges for damage caused by fast-moving water, department spokesman Andy Dietrick said.

Although thousands of acres of farmland are under water, it's too early to predict the effect on Indiana's agricultural economy, Daniels said. Until the flood struck, Indiana farmers had been on target for bountiful yields.

"This problem, at least in places, has set us back," Daniels said. "I just can't quantify it for you yet."

Louisville Courier Journal

Floods spread as crest moves downstream

WASHINGTON, Ind. -- A levee break on the swollen White River sent floodwaters pouring into several square miles of farmland and caused authorities to urge residents to evacuate yesterday.

The levee failed early yesterday near the rural community of Capehart, and the floodwater was within 6 inches of topping the protective casing around the drinking wells for the nearby city of Washington, said Rep. Dave Crooks, speaking for the Daviess County Emergency Management Agency.

Gov. Mitch Daniels visited several cities and towns in Central Indiana yesterday to review damage from the flooding and last week's tornadoes.

Neighboring Knox County has seen extensive flooding near the community of Sandborn, said John Streeter, the county's emergency management director. He said farmland was submerged, and between 200 and 300 people have reported water in their homes or businesses.

"We can't get out to some of them," he said.